

Amendments to the Claims

Claims Pending: 1-8 and 36-58

Currently Amended claims: 1 and 36-58

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: Claims 9-35 were previously canceled

New claims: None

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1. (Currently Amended) A pseudonymous email address generator comprising:

a request interface configured to receive a pseudonymous email address generation request, [[for an entity]] the request being associated with a requester, the request containing ~~website~~ identification information including at least an [[IP]] address associated with the [[entity]] requester; and

a computer-readable medium embodying computer-readable instructions that implement a pseudonymous email address creator configured to:

create a pseudonymous email address associated with a mail server in response to the received pseudonymous email address generation request,

associate the pseudonymous email address with an email address, provide the created pseudonymous email address and its associated email address to the mail server ~~associated with the pseudonymous email address,~~

cause [[provide]] the created pseudonymous email address to be provided to the [[entity]] requester; and

[[store]] use the ~~website identification information with the associated pseudonymous email address to allow centralized analysis to~~ ascertain whether the IP address associated with the requester to correlate monitoring for other pseudonymous email address generation requests associated with an ~~is associated with a source of spam email address harvesting entity.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The generator of claim 1 further comprising a mail server interface configured to receive from the pseudonymous email address creator both the pseudonymous email address and the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address, and provide them to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address.

3. (Previously Presented) The generator of claim 1 further comprising a request analysis engine configured to receive from the request interface an indication of a destination of a requested alias, and determine in accordance with the indication that the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address is a honeypot address.

4. (Previously Presented) The generator of claim 1 wherein the pseudonymous email address creator further comprises:

means for defining properties of the pseudonymous email address, the properties selected from a list including a friendly name associated with the pseudonymous email address, a management link and corresponding attachment method, and the email address the pseudonymous email address is associated with; and

means for providing the defined properties to an associated mail server.

5. (Previously Presented) The generator of claim 1 further comprising a rules engine configured to:

define a set of routing rules in accordance with requests received by the request interface,

associate the defined set of rules with pseudonymous email addresses generated by the pseudonymous email address creator, and

provide the created set of rules to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address.

6. (Previously Presented) The generator of claim 5 wherein the rules engine further comprises means for defining the routing rules in accordance with a set of parameters defined in the pseudonymous email address generation request.

7. (Previously Presented) The generator of claim 5 wherein the rules engine further comprises means for defining the routing rules in accordance with a set of default parameters.

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8. (Original) The generator of claim 7 wherein the default parameters are dependent upon a requester identifier associated with the pseudonymous email address generation request.

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36. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving a request for a pseudonymous e-mail address, [[for an entity]] the request being associated with a requester, the request containing at least an [[IP]] address associated with the [[entity]] requester;

responsive to receiving the request, creating a pseudonymous e-mail address;

associating the pseudonymous e-mail address with an e-mail address;

causing communication of the pseudonymous e-mail address to the [[entity]] requester;

storing the [[IP]] address associated with the requester [[with]] and the associated pseudonymous e-mail address; and

using the [[IP]] address associated with the requester to monitor incoming requests for pseudonymous e-mail addresses to ascertain whether the [[IP]] address associated with the requester is associated with a source of spam an email address harvesting entity.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36 further comprising, responsive to ascertaining that the [[IP]] address associated with the requester is associated with a source of spam an email address harvesting entity, modifying routing rules to discard direct e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address ~~to discard~~.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36 further comprising, responsive to ascertaining that the [[IP]] address associated with the requester is associated with ~~a source of spam~~ an email address harvesting entity, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36, further comprising receiving an indication that a pseudonymous e-mail address provided to a specified [[IP]] address has likely been provided to a email address harvesting entity.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 39, further comprising responsive to receiving the indication, modifying routing rules to discard ~~direct~~ e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address ~~to~~ discard.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 39 further comprising responsive to receiving the indication, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from an http server.

5 43. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from a server.

10 44. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from a user.

15 45. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36, wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail address is performed automatically and without input from a user as to content of the pseudonymous e-mail address.

20 46. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 36, wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail address is performed automatically responsive to a click on a contact link.

47. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including a
~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium having ~~stored thereon, computer-~~

executable instructions stored thereon that, [[if]] responsive to [[executed]]
execution by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a
method operations comprising:

receiving a request for a pseudonymous e-mail address, [[for an entity]] the
5 request being associated with a requester, the request containing at least an [[IP]]
address associated with the [[entity]] requester;

responsive to receiving the request, creating a pseudonymous e-mail
address;

associating the pseudonymous e-mail address with an e-mail address;

10 causing communication of the pseudonymous e-mail address to the
[[entity]] requester;

storing the [[IP]] address associated with the requester with the associated
pseudonymous e-mail address; and

using the [[IP]] address associated with the requester to monitor incoming
15 requests for pseudonymous e-mail addresses to ascertain whether the [[IP]]
address associated with the requester is associated with a source of spam an email
address harvesting entity.

48. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture including the
20 tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 47 further comprising
computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, [[if]] responsive to
[[executed]] execution by the computing device, cause the computing device to

perform ~~a method~~ operations further comprising responsive to ascertaining that the [[IP]] address associated with the requester is associated with ~~a source of spam~~ an email address harvesting entity, modifying routing rules to discard ~~direct~~ e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address ~~to discard~~.

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49. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture including the tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 47 further comprising computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, [[if]] responsive to [[executed]] execution by the computing device, cause the computing device to perform ~~a method~~ operations further comprising, responsive to ascertaining that the [[IP]] address associated with the requester is associated with ~~a source of spam~~ an email address harvesting entity, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

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50. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture including the tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 47 further comprising computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, [[if]] responsive to [[executed]] execution by the computing device, cause the computing device to perform ~~a method~~ operations further comprising receiving an indication that a pseudonymous e-mail address provided to a specified [[IP]] address has likely been provided to a email address harvesting entity.

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51. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture including the
~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 50 further comprising
computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, ~~[[if]]~~ responsive to
~~[[executed]]~~ execution by the computing device, cause the computing device to
5 perform ~~a method~~ operations further comprising responsive to receiving the
indication, modifying routing rules to ~~direct~~ discard e-mail to the pseudonymous
e-mail address ~~to discard~~.

52. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture including the
10 ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 50 further comprising
computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, ~~[[if]]~~ responsive to
~~[[executed]]~~ execution by the computing device, cause the computing device to
perform ~~a method~~ operations further comprising responsive to receiving the
indication, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible computer-readable medium~~
article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein receiving the request comprises
receiving a request from an http server.

54. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible computer-readable medium~~
20 article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein receiving the request comprises
receiving a request from a server.

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible computer-readable medium~~
article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein receiving the request comprises
receiving a request from a user.

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible computer-readable medium~~
article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail
address is performed automatically and without input from a user as to content of
the pseudonymous e-mail address.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible computer-readable medium~~
article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail
address is performed automatically responsive to a click on a contact link.

58. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
means for receiving a request for a pseudonymous e-mail address, [[for an
entity]] the request being associated with a requester, the request containing at
least an [[IP]] address associated with the [[entity]] requester;

means for responsive to receiving the request, creating a pseudonymous e-
mail address;

means for associating the pseudonymous e-mail address with an e-mail
address;

means for causing communication of the pseudonymous e-mail address to the [[entity]] requester;

means for storing the [[IP]] address associated with the requester with the associated pseudonymous e-mail address; and

- 5 means for using the [[IP]] address associated with the requester to monitor incoming requests for pseudonymous e-mail addresses to ascertain whether the [[IP]] address associated with the requester is associated with ~~a source of spam~~ an email address harvesting entity.